

E

687

B738

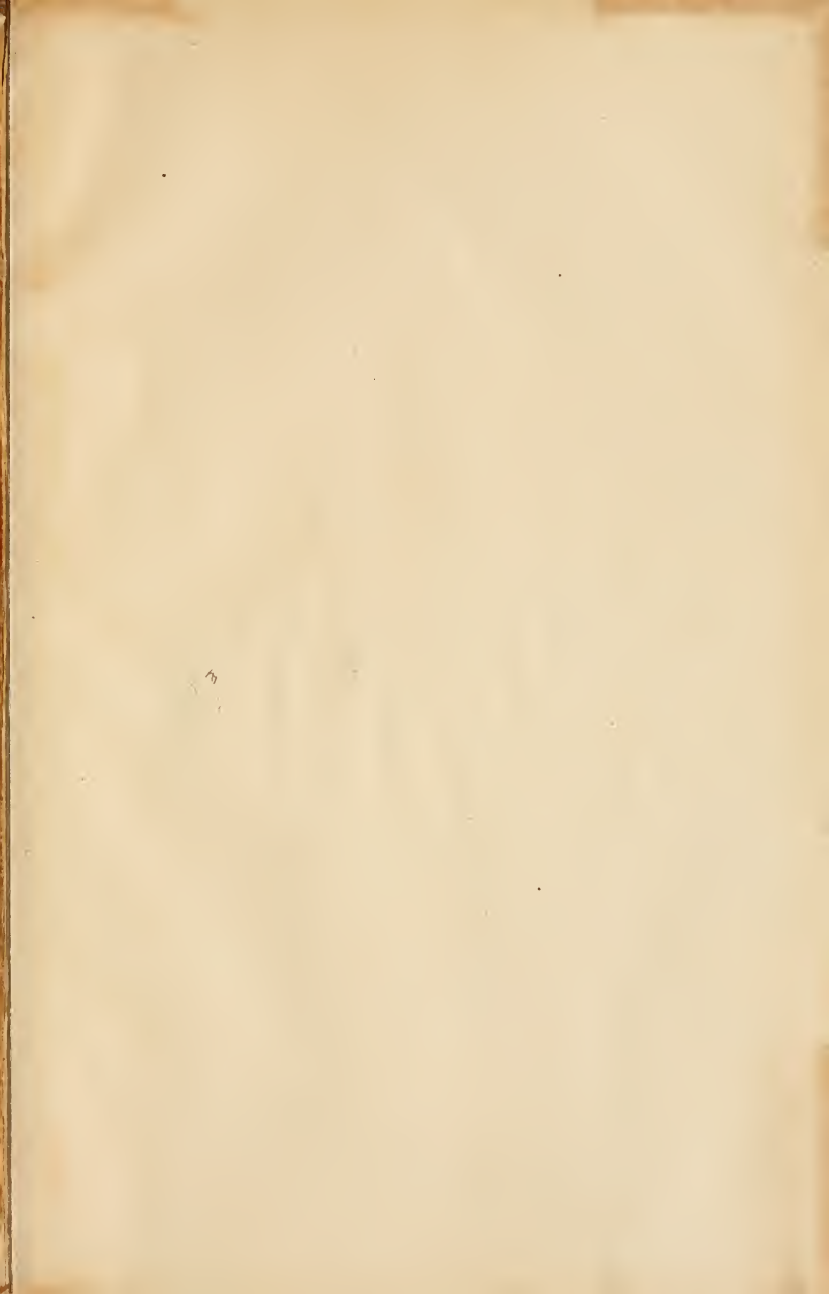


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

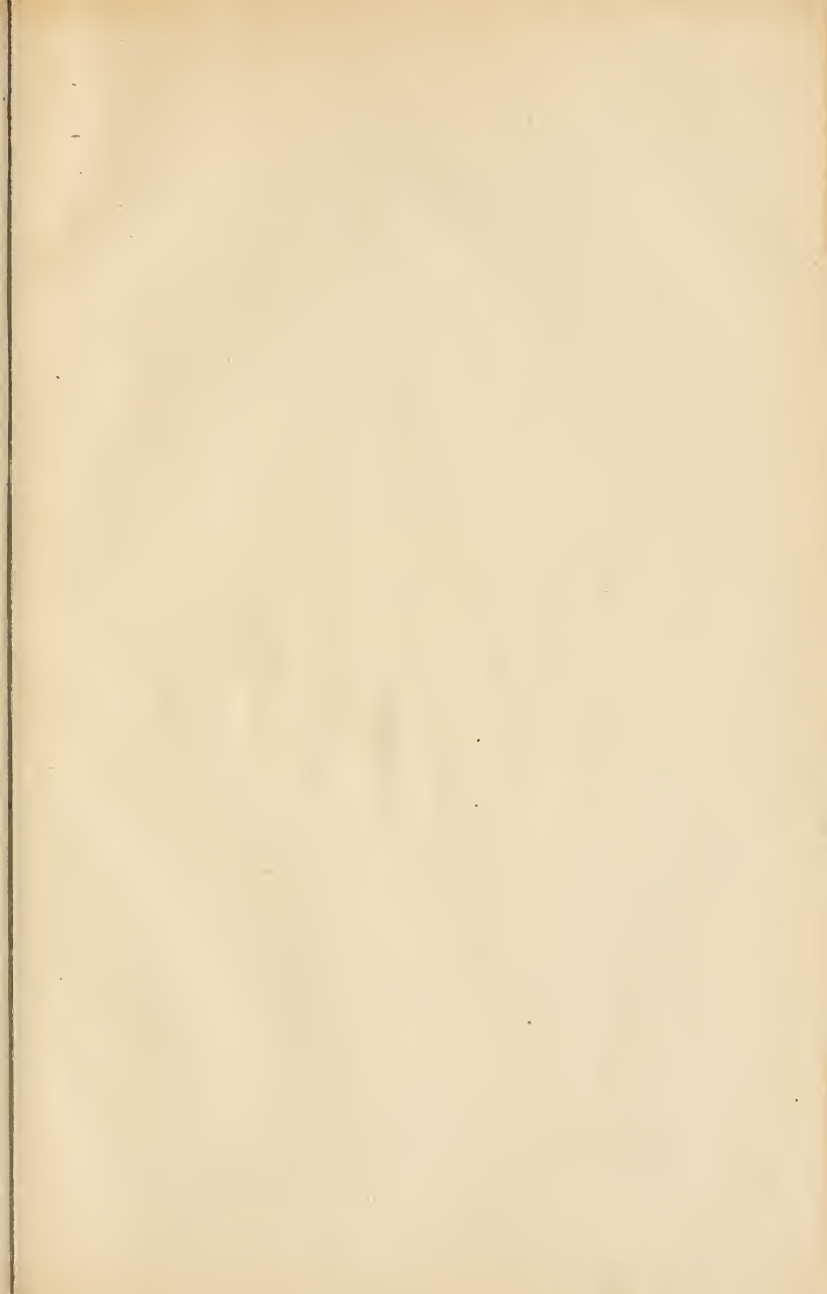
Chap. *E687*
Shelf *B738*

PRESENTED BY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.









[DOCUMENT 127 — 1881]



CITY OF



BOSTON.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL,

ON THE DEATH OF

JAMES A. GARFIELD,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Oct. 3, 1881.

Ordered, That the proceedings of the City Council of Boston, in commemoration of the death of JAMES A. GARFIELD, late President of the United States, be printed as a city document; the expense attending the same to be charged to the appropriation for Printing.

Passed in Common Council. Came up for concurrence. Read and concurred. Approved by the Mayor October 4, 1881.

Attest :

S. F. McCLEARY.

City Clerk.

CITY HALL, BOSTON, September 20, 1881.

Both branches of the City Council met in their respective chambers at 12 M., in accordance with the following call : —

CITY OF BOSTON.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Sept. 19, 1881.

To the Honorable the City Council of Boston : —

Having been informed of the death, which occurred this evening, of JAMES A. GARFIELD, the President of the United States, you are hereby requested to assemble in your respective chambers on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 12 o'clock M., for the purpose of taking such action touch-

ing the solemn event as would appropriately express the sympathy of our citizens in this national sorrow, and their respect for the memory of the deceased.

FREDERICK O. PRINCE.

Mayor.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

His Honor Mayor PRINCE occupied the chair, read the call, and said:—

Gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen:—

It becomes my painful duty to give you official information of the death of JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD, President of the United States. Shot down by a base assassin on the second day of July last, he lingered from that date until thirty-five minutes past ten o'clock last evening, when he died. During a large part of this time he suffered great pain, which he bore with manly and uncomplaining fortitude.

This terrible event has cast a shadow over the whole country. It has made a national sorrow. During all his long weeks of suffering the hopes and sympathies and prayers of the whole people have been with him, and now that suspense and anxiety are merged in grief and mourning they feel that the nation has lost a Chief Magistrate whose talents, experience, and patriotism were assurances that the great trusts reposed in him would have been well and faithfully executed.

Recently chosen from the people, by the people, to administer the government in their behalf, all the citizens, regardless of political differences or sectional divisions, were prepared to render him the loyal and generous support which he had the right to claim, and which our countrymen—ever subordinating party spirit to patriotic duty—are accustomed to accord.

We have every reason to believe that he would have so administered the government that every political and social right secured to the citizens and to the States by the Constitution would have been conserved, and that the progress of the Republic during his official term would have been such as to demonstrate the ability of a free people to select for their rulers those who are qualified for the grave and difficult duties of government.

They who enjoyed the privilege of his intimacy represent him as possessing, in an eminent degree, all those qualities of the head and heart which beget affection and attach men to each other; so that not only the nation mourns for the loss of a wise, sagacious, and patriotic magistrate, but the

domestic circle and the large circle of devoted friends grieve for the loss of one whose kindly nature and great capacity for affection enabled him to discharge well and fully all the offices of friendship and all the obligations of natural relations.

The government of the country is never seriously disturbed by the death of any of its officials, however distinguished he may be for public or private virtues, because it is based on law, supported by free institutions, and protected by the loyalty of a patriotic people. However much, therefore, we grieve for the loss of this excellent President we are permitted to entertain, in our great bereavement, the consoling reflection that no apprehension can mingle with the regrets with which we lay his mortal remains in their last resting-place, that danger will come to the republic, that the administration of government will be impeded, or that our free institutions will be in any way imperilled through the death of a President. The assassin may murder an official, but law and government he cannot kill while patriotism survives, and the people recognize the obligations of moral and religious duties.

The destiny of nations and individuals is in the hands of Him who notes even the fall of the sparrow. We bow in submission to that Divine Will which orders all things well. We may not clearly see how a great and public evil can work for the good of a community: but there are some lessons which all may learn from it. It should teach us humiliation, the purification of the heart, the resolve that in the future there shall be larger charity in our intercourse with each other, a fuller recognition of our moral duties, and a deeper interest in the religious education of the people. Political institutions based on the affections of the people, and representing patriotism, piety, and equal rights, will survive rulers and parties, and can only perish when the public virtues which called them into existence shall decline and pass away. The Chair will receive any proposition which is appropriate to the occasion.

Alderman O'BRIEN said:—

Mr. MAYOR, — It is with the deepest sorrow and regret that I rise to offer resolutions in honor of the memory of the late President of the United States. A few weeks ago we all rejoiced, because it appeared to us at that time, that the hand of the assassin had failed to accomplish its purpose; that our President would live to serve his country with that distinguished ability and patriotism that had marked his course since his entrance on public life. An all-wise Providence has willed it otherwise. Elected but a few months ago the Chief

Magistrate of the nation, he had but just entered upon a career of usefulness to his country, when he was stricken down for no cause whatever.

Fifty millions of people now mourn their great loss. Fifty millions of people are shocked that a man could exist among them, could grow up among them, who would be guilty of so great a crime. Words almost fail to express our detestation of the act by which so distinguished a citizen has lost his life, and the country a Chief Magistrate, who was honored and respected throughout the land. In common with our fellow-citizens in all sections of the country, we mourn our great loss and honor his memory. With these brief remarks I now submit the resolutions of the City Council:—

Resolved, That the City Council of Boston, in common with other communities in this afflicted land, has learned, with the profoundest sorrow, that the long and painful illness of JAMES A. GARFIELD, President of the United States, who was shot by an assassin on the 2d of July last, has now culminated in his death.

Resolved, That, by the untimely death of President GARFIELD, this country has sustained an irreparable loss; for in him were centred all those graces which the highest culture could produce, all that political wisdom which a varied experience in the council and the field could secure, all that knowledge of men and public affairs which extensive study and thought could suggest, which united to make him in reputation and in fact the most illustrious citizen in the Union.

Resolved, That President GARFIELD exemplified, by his varied and interesting experience from boyhood to maturity, the American idea of a true and lofty citizenship, and in his wonderful career he exhibited the limitless capacity which waits at the inception of life upon every citizen, no matter how humble his birth, if he be only faithful to his duty and to God.

Resolved, That, besides his public virtues, we recognize also with grateful feeling his personal qualities, as exhibited by his patience in suffering, his fortitude in pain, his manly utterances, his sweet affections and his Christian faith, which have been so conspicuously displayed, and which have attracted to his bedside the attention of this nation and the warmest sympathy and prayers of all mankind; thus illustrating in his death, as well as in his life, the strength and courage of a noble, virtuous, and Christian character.

Resolved, That the members of the City Council, individually and collectively, extend to the afflicted family of the late President their warmest and most sincere sympathies in this sorrowful hour; and they desire especially to recognize that devoted affection, that saintlike tenderness, and that heroic fortitude, under circumstances of agonizing suffering, which the honored wife of the late President has exhibited in her unparalleled trials.

Ordered, That the Mayor cause the City Hall and Faneuil Hall to be appropriately draped, the flags to be displayed at half-mast upon the public buildings for a period of six days, and the bells of the city to be tolled during the hour set apart for the funeral of the late President.

Alderman HERSEY said:—

Mr. MAYOR,—I hardly know how to give voice to the feeling of sadness that pervades every heart consequent upon

the sad intelligence that our beloved Chief Magistrate has ceased to live. During the weary weeks in which, without a murmur, he has borne the suffering and pain of his protracted struggle for existence he has become more and more endeared to this people, and each day has intensified our desire that he might live. Over this broad land from fifty million homes are coming the sad notes of bereavement of a heart-broken, stricken people. Across the wide ocean, wherever a Christian people dwell, the sad intelligence has cast its gloom. Flashing along the wires that form a sympathetic cord uniting the continents are speeding the words of sympathy from every land, showing that our grief and loss are shared by the common brotherhood of man. Words can but feebly express our sense of sorrow. That in a time of peace, with no exciting issue to influence the passions of men, the assassin's hand should deal the blow of death, which was escaped upon many a field of battle, and that our beloved President, in the strength of his manhood, when he had but reached the summit of human ambition, should be stricken down, seems sad indeed. But so it has been ordained, — the dread messenger of Death has knocked at the door of the Nation's Capital, and all that love and human skill could do were unavailing to stay his progress. A Christian warrior has fallen; the sword that he drew in defence of human liberty and a nation's life lies forever sheathed in its scabbard; and he has passed on to that realm "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest," to receive that greater glory of those who fulfil well their mission here.

The resolves and orders were adopted unanimously by a rising vote. Sent down for concurrence.

Alderman VILES moved that the regular meeting of this Board, on Monday next, be dispensed with, as that is the day set apart for the funeral of our late President, and that when this Board adjourns it be to meet on Wednesday, the 28th inst., and that all orders of notice be made returnable on that day.

Adopted.

Alderman SLADE offered the following: —

Ordered, That a eulogy upon the life and public services of JAMES A. GARFIELD be pronounced at an early day before the City Council and the citizens of Boston, and that a committee of three members of this Board, with such as the Common Council may join, be appointed to make suitable arrangements therefor.

Passed, and Aldermen SLADE, TUCKER, and HERSEY were appointed on said committee. Sent down.

Alderman CURTIS offered the following : —

Ordered, That a delegation from the City Government, consisting of his Honor Mayor PRINCE, the Chairman, and one other member of the Board of Aldermen, the President and two other members of the Common Council, be appointed to attend the obsequies of the late President of the United States at Washington.

Passed, and Alderman CURTIS was appointed on said committee. Sent down.

Adjourned, on motion of Alderman O'BRIEN.

IN COMMON COUNCIL.

President BAILEY read the call, and said : —

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD, the 20th President of the United States, is dead. The tired heart is still, and the patient soul has gone to its home. Eleven weeks of memorable trial have been added to our country's history, — weeks of pain and anxiety for every patriotic heart. Who of us will ever forget the deep horror which prevailed on receipt of the first news of the terrible outrage, felt to be not only against the man, but against the nation itself?

Who will soon forget the gloomy anniversary of our birth as a nation, or the hunger for favorable news from the stricken President? Then the first gleam of hope, the alternating hopes and fears of these bitter days of national anxiety, the shutting out of all hope, and the stern recognition that death must come. Vividly as it now seems to us, it will stand out still more vividly in the future. Two strong characters have been blazoned on our nation's page, that will grow stronger and stronger the closer they are studied.

The noble wife, rising from all but a fatal sickness, and with heroism and fortitude never surpassed, comforting, cheering, and sustaining her stricken husband. Never despondent, never discouraged, she will stand forever as the American idea of noble, wifely devotion, and of heroic and womanly character. The respectful homage of mankind is hers, and the sympathy of a nation's sorrowing people are with her.

Our second martyr-President, elected to his high office through respect of his talents and admiration of his noble manhood, the patient courage, the cheerful and almost boyish disposition in the endurance of long and terrible sufferings, endeared him to the hearts of the people, and made him the Loved President of the American people. Our hearts are sad to-day, and the gloom of this terrible calamity will not soon pass from the nation's heart; but these examples of American manhood and womanhood will gild the gloom, and

add heroism and loveliness to American character. It rests with us, gentlemen of the Common Council, to take such action as will testify to the nation the appreciation of our community of this affliction, and our sympathy with the mourning family.

The resolutions and order passed by the Board of Aldermen were presented by Mr. PARKMAN, of Ward 9, and upon their being read by the President, Mr. PARKMAN said :—

Mr. PRESIDENT, — In moving the adoption of these resolutions I cannot but attempt to feebly express the feelings which I know animate the breasts of not only all in this chamber, but of every one throughout the length and breadth of this land, where the news has come at the end of a long and lingering illness, which we have been so long expecting. For eighty days, hourly, we have examined each bulletin as it brought to us news of the condition of the President of the United States, and we have alternated between hope and despair. During those eighty days we may say that we have been fused into one nation. Though elected to the position which he held by one of the political parties of this country, the attack of the assassin has fused us into one, the distinctions of party have been lost, and no one has been known as a Republican, a Democrat, a Labor Reformer, or Greenbacker, in our common grief. JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD, who was shot on the second of July, at his post of duty, exemplifies to us, as has been appropriately said in these resolutions, the fact that any one of us, by force of character, may reach the highest post in the gift of our fellow-citizens. His career has been watched so long by his fellow-countrymen, and is so well-known to every one in this assembly, that I will not repeat it. We all feel that the attack of the assassin was upon each one of us, but at the same time we must remember what Mr. GARFIELD so eloquently expressed upon the death of the President at another time, that, though our chief has been stricken down, our nation still lives. Though we may mourn for him as one of the best and noblest types of American manhood, yet we must endeavor to show respect for his memory by attempting to carry out what we think he would have desired. And, Mr. President, as you yourself have so well said, while undoubtedly there are many women in this broad land who, under the same circumstances, would have shown the same fortitude and spirit in their troubles, yet it has been given to this woman to show what our highest type of American womanhood is. She has stood the ordeal nobly, and we extend to her our most sincere sympathies. Mr. President, I move the adoption of these resolutions by a rising vote.

Mr. WHITMORE, of Ward 12, said : —

Mr. PRESIDENT, — I rise to second the motion, in the name of those of us who did not aid in the election of President GARFIELD. And with that preface, the memory of that opposition forever ceases. As President, he was our President; the chosen head of the whole people; the visible sign of a nation's sovereignty; the object of the love and loyalty of every citizen. He has fallen a victim to the dangers of his post, — a martyr to his country, as truly as any of his associates who fell on the field of battle. Most fortunately, not a suspicion can exist that the cowardly assassin had a confederate or a sympathizer. The political framework of our government stands to-day intact and admirable; our sympathy can be freely and justly bestowed upon GARFIELD as a man grievously afflicted, but for that very cause nearer and dearer to us now and always.

This community, proud of its loyalty, is a unit also in its affection for the fallen chieftain. From the moment of the first announcement of the dastardly act until the stroke of the midnight bell proclaimed the mournful end, a shadow has rested on every household. The spectre of Death has been with us, day and night, as though the first-born lay stricken in every home. Day by day we have watched the bulletins, to glean a deceptive comfort from hopeful words, or to sadly anticipate the day which has now come. Kings and nobles have faced the scaffold with a firmness which awakened the pride of their followers; but for two long months our heroic President has faced Death with a courage and composure greater than theirs; a richer memory to the citizens of this republic; a higher example for them to imitate.

I most heartily support the admirable resolution of condolence with his wife and family. It will never be forgotten that his wife was his truest friend, his unfailing supporter. The few respectful glimpses we have of the sick-chamber reveal her as that crowning glory of a man, a true wife. Well and fully has she struggled, only to remain to bear a weary burden for many years. Friends may forget, children may outgrow their passionate grief, but the helpmeet of the President's life can but mourn and wait.

In behalf of every household in this community, in the name of every happy family in the land, we tender her our sympathy, our prayers for that consolation which the hope of a blessed immortality can alone afford.

One last word: the miserable cause of this calamity still lives, to learn in due season the weight of a nation's curse.

It behooves us all to see that he receives his just punishment, not in hasty wrath, but by the inflexible force of a just

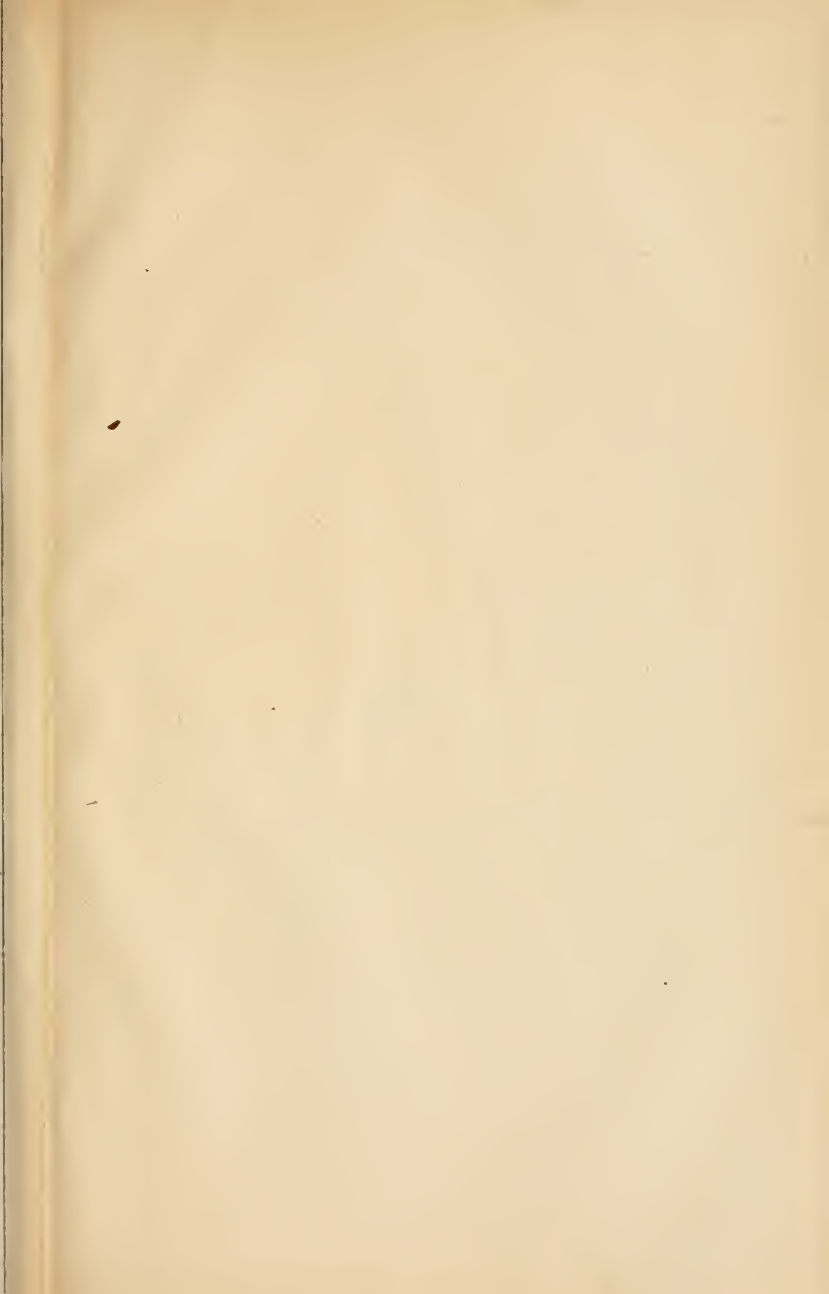
vengeance. It has been said that "there is a divinity that doth hedge in a king." Let us prove that the affection of a mighty nation forever encompasses its elected chief, and that the sword of justice, inevitable and relentless, awaits whoever strikes at the Nation's heart.

The resolves and order were read a second time and passed in concurrence with the other branch, by a unanimous rising vote.

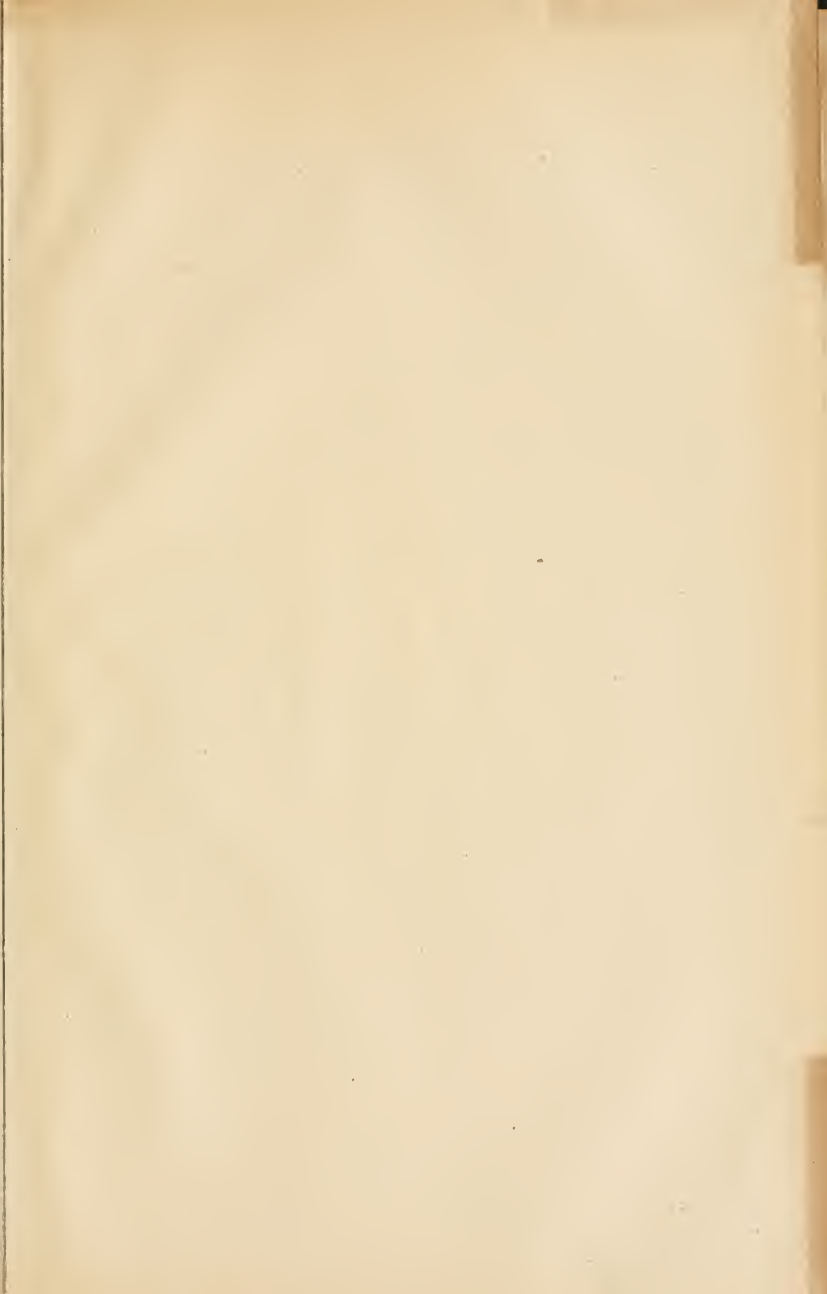
An order came down for the appointment of a committee to attend the funeral of the President at Washington. Read twice, under a suspension of the rule, on motion of Mr. SMITH of Ward 21, and passed in concurrence. Messrs. PARKMAN of Ward 9, and PRAY of Ward 5, were appointed on said committee.

An order came down for a eulogy to be pronounced upon the life and services of President GARFIELD at an early day, and appointing a committee to arrange therefor. Read twice, under a suspension of the rule, on motion of Mr. FITZPATRICK of Ward 8, and passed in concurrence. Messrs. PRATT of Ward 21, WHITMORE of Ward 12, CUMMINGS of Ward 10, BARTLETT of Ward 15, and McLAUGHLIN of Ward 7, were appointed on said committee.

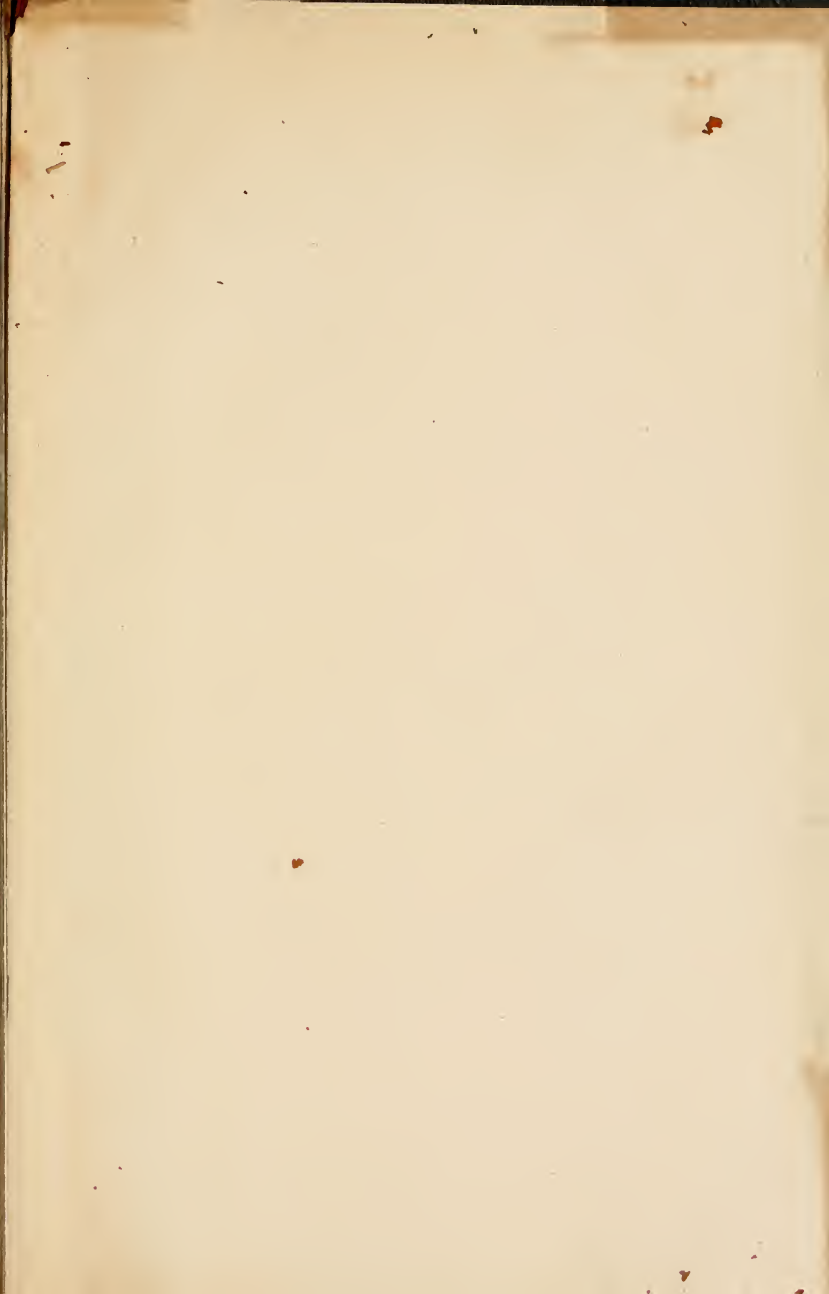
Adjourned, on motion of Mr. BROWN of Ward 23.











LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 013 789 906 1

